relationships or locations according to their predicted likelihood. For example the most likely next key can be in the centre of a group of the keys so that it is the easiest to locate and select. Such an arrangement may be enhanced by the use of key highlighting such as brightness and/or colour, such that the most likely next key is the easiest to see and focus on for the user. The remaining keys may be located further from the centre of the grouping depending on their predicted likelihood; and similarly their colour, contrast and/or brightness may be varied according to their likelihood.

[0013] Additionally or alternatively, the most likely next key may be located over the position of the last entered key from a previous keyboard or set of keys. This means that the user does not need to move their stylus laterally across the keyboard, resulting in reduced user hand movement and hence less fatigue. This compares with using full character set keyboards such as QWERTY keyboards, where for example the movement from a "P" to an "A" may require a 2 cm movement; enough to require the user to lift their hand from the device and move it across to the next letter.

[0014] In some cases the new or reduced character set keyboard may be superimposed over a previous set of keys, for example an initial full QWERTY keyboard.

[0015] In an embodiment the display comprises three regions, a display region showing entered characters, a first touch-sensitive display region displaying the keys for selection, and a second touch-sensitive region showing the predicted words. Preferably the predicted words are displayed according to their predicted likelihood.

[0016] In one aspect the present invention provides a method for entering characters into a small screen device and comprising: receiving user input corresponding to one or more characters from a set of characters; predicting a number of sequences of characters depending on the received characters; displaying a reduced character set keyboard having a number of keys grouped together and each corresponding to the next predicted character in a said respective predicted sequence of characters; the reduced character set keyboard having a unique layout of keys compared with receiving the user input.

[0017] In another aspect the present invention provides a method for entering a character into an electronic device, the method including: displaying input character keys on a touch sensitive region of a display screen of the device, the keys identifying an associated character; showing at least one entered character in a display region of the screen, the entered character being selected by actuation of one of the character keys; predicting a group of potential subsequent characters that follow the entered character; displaying a second set of input character keys identifying the potential subsequent characters; entering in the display region one of the potential subsequent characters adjacent the entered character, the entering being in response to actuation of one of the second set of keys; wherein the second set of keys are grouped together such that their relative screen locations with respect to each other are different to that of corresponding keys in the first set of keys.

[0018] Suitably in another aspect the present invention provides a method for entering a character into an electronic device, the method including: displaying input character keys on a touch sensitive region of a display screen of the device, the keys identifying an associated character; showing at least one entered character in a display region of the screen, the entered character being selected by actuation of one of the character keys; predicting a group of potential subsequent characters that follow the entered character; displaying a set of enlarged keys over the input character keys, the enlarged keys identifying the potential subsequent characters; and entering in the display region one of the potential subsequent characters adjacent the entered character, the entering being in response to actuation of one of the enlarged keys.

[0019] In another aspect the present invention provides an electronic device comprising: a display having touch sensitive region for displaying input character keys identifying an associated character, and a display region; a processor configured to receive an entered character being selected by actuation of one of the character keys, and further configured as a predictive character editor which is arranged to predict a group of potential subsequent characters that follow the entered character; the display screen further configured to show at least one entered character in the display region and a second set of input character keys in the touch sensitive region, the keys identifying the potential subsequent characters; the second set of keys being grouped together such that their relative screen locations with respect to each other are different to that of corresponding keys in the first set of input character keys.

[0020] In another aspect the present invention provides a processor program or control code which when implemented on a processor causes it to carry out a method for entering a character into an electronic device, the method including: displaying input character keys on a touch sensitive region of a display screen of the device, the keys identifying an associated character; showing at least one entered character in a display region of the screen, the entered character being selected by actuation of one of the character keys; predicting a group of potential subsequent characters that follow the entered character; displaying a second set of input character keys identifying the potential subsequent characters; entering in the display region one of the potential subsequent characters adjacent the entered character, the entering being in response to actuation of one of the second set of keys; wherein the second set of keys are grouped together such that their relative screen locations with respect to each other are different to that of corresponding keys in the first set of keys. The processor or computer program may be carried on a carrier medium such as a storage medium for example a CD-ROM, or a transmission medium for example a telephony signal.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0021] In order that the invention may be readily understood and put into practical effect, reference will now be made to an exemplary embodiment as illustrated with reference to the accompanying figures, where like reference numerals refer to identical or functionally similar elements throughout the separate views. The figures together with a detailed description below, are incorporated in and form part of the specification, and serve to further illustrate the embodiments and explain various principles and advantages, in accordance with the present invention where:

[0022] FIG. **1** is a schematic block diagram illustrating circuitry of an electronic device in accordance with the present invention;